

NEWLY ACQUIRED OIL PORTRAIT
HIGHLIGHTS MUSEUM'S EXHIBIT

The annual YEAR IN REVIEW exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art opens October 27 and continues through November 14, offering a wide range of Museum purchases and gifts received within the past nine months.

Of paramount importance is the portrait of the jester Calabazas by Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez (1599-1660), one of the masters of Spain's 17th century Golden Age of Painting. The painting, publicly on display for the first time since its purchase in March is of Don Juan de Calabazas, or Calabacillas, who served in the court of Philip IV. The Prado Museum in Madrid has another much later, much more loosely painted picture of Calabazas; it and the Cleveland early version are two in a series of eight portrayals of court buffoons by Velazquez. All but Cleveland's are in the Prado.

The Cleveland painting is the first Velazquez to enter the Museum collections and it completes the Museum's representation of masters (including Ribera, Murillo, and Zurbaran) from the Spanish Golden Age. It was executed between 1628 and 1632 and shows Calabazas, in nearly life-size dimensions, as a young semi-dwarf, in the black tufted velvet costume he was given when he entered the Spanish royal service. In his left hand is a toy windmill, an attribute (according to the period's literature) assigned to madmen, and in his right hand, a miniature portrait, not clearly identifiable.

In the 19th century Calabazas was repainted to suit the taste of the times. The crossed eyes were uncrossed and the pipestem legs were padded out with a fashionable calf. This is the condition in which the Museum received the portrait; but now after cleaning, the picture has been restored to its original state.

The Museum acquired 186 other works of art during 1965. Among them are:

A substantial and generous gift from Carrie Moss Halle in memory of Salmon Portland Halle. In the bequest were nineteen decorative art objects and two paintings, including a bronze MONUMENTAL HEAD OF BEETHOVEN by Emile Antoine Bourdelle (French, 1861-1929); five sculptures by Auguste Rodin (French, 1840-1917) and a Dragon Fly brooch by René Lalique (French, 1860-1945). The Halle gift also included an oil on copper painting of FLOWERS executed in 1606 by the Flemish artist Ambrosius Bosschaert.

Other decorative art objects acquired during the year were a very important, late 14th century cast stone, Austrian MADONNA AND CHILD FROM MARIAPFARR IN LUNGAU, purchased from the J. H. Wade Fund; a 15th century EWER OR LAVABO in brass from The South Netherlands, acquired through the Norman O. and Ella A. Stone Memorial Fund; and a Polynesian wooden war club, the gift of William Mathewson Milliken for the Mary Spedding Milliken Memorial Collection.

Accessions in the painting department included (in addition to the Velazquez) a gift from Dr. and Mrs. Theodor W. Braasch of eleven water colors by William Sommer (American, 1867-1949) and a purchase, through the Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt Fund, of three American oil paintings by William Bradford (1830-1892), Frederick Edwin Church (1826-1900) and William Harnett (1851-1892).

Nearly fifty prints and drawings were added to the collection of the Prints and Drawings department: among them were engravings by Pieter Brueghel I (Flemish, ca. 1525-1569; purchased through the Delia E. Holden Fund); by Niccolo della Casa (French, active ca. 1543-1548; a gift from The Print Club of Cleveland) and Albrecht Dürer (German, 1471-1528; acquired through the bequest of Leonard C. Hanna, Jr. by exchange; and etchings by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (Italian, 1696-1770); and a woodcut by Lucas Cranach I (German, 1472-1553; a gift from The Print Club of Cleveland).

The Oriental department acquired sixteen works of art including a late 17th century, Japanese portrait scroll, a purchase from the Marlatt Fund; a Chinese, Ming Dynasty hanging scroll by Ting Yün-p'êng, purchased from the Andrew R. and Martha Holden Jennings Fund; and a red sandstone YAKSHI from second or third century A.D. India, also a purchase from the Jennings Fund.

A life-size marble TORSO OF A MAN from third century B.C. Greece was added in the Classical Art department, a purchase through the Wade Fund.

Among the Textile department's acquisitions was a 12th century Egyptian, silk and linen TIRAZ, a gift of the Textile Arts Club.

Art from the ancient Near East included a silver cup from ninth century B. C. Iran, purchased through the J. H. Wade Fund.

Contemporary art purchases included paintings by Josef Albers, Richard Diebenkorn, Gianfranco Ferroni, Gyorgy Kepes and Joan Miro.